



# Illinois State Board of Education

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**Rod Blagojevich**  
Governor

**Jesse H. Ruiz**  
Chairman

**Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.**  
State Superintendent of Education

September 18, 2007

Dear Educator,

Two years ago, Governor Rod Blagojevich directed the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to work with other state agencies to create a new Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) for Illinois. The goal for this initiative is to reduce traffic deaths in Illinois to below 1,000 by the end of 2008.

As part of that Plan, IDOT joined forces with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to coordinate a statewide Work Zone Safety calendar contest for elementary students in Illinois schools to emphasize the importance of safe driving in work zones. Students, teachers and parents responded to this contest with more than 2,700 entries from around the state for the 2006-2007 calendar contest. Each entry showed creativity in sharing the lifesaving message of Work Zone Safety.

Again this year we are inviting students in kindergarten through sixth grade in Illinois' public and private elementary schools to participate in a Work Zone Safety calendar contest. The contest promotes work zone safety by introducing children at an early age to safe driving practices with the hope of instilling a lifelong awareness of work zone hazards and fostering safe driving behavior in the future.

There are three categories for this contest: Kindergarten and First Grade; Second and Third Grades; and Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades. Each school will choose the top two entries from each category to submit to IDOT for the state contest. Through online judging and celebrity panel judges, the top two entries from each category will be chosen and will qualify for the national calendar contest. Along with the top six contestant winners, six additional contestants will be chosen to have their entries displayed in a 12-month calendar which will be distributed to the public through community events throughout Illinois.

We will announce the winners at an awards luncheon in spring 2008. The top six contestants will receive monetary awards, and all 12 winners will receive plaques. All students who submit a contest entry will receive a certificate of participation from the Illinois partners.

I hope you will encourage your students to use their creativity to share a lifesaving message. We have enclosed an information packet detailing this year's contest. Please confirm your interest by phone at 217-782-6518. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Baker with the Illinois Department of Transportation at 217-782-6518.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Koch".

Christopher Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education